9/3/71

POST MORTEM I: SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO KEEP, OMIT OR ADD

The Introduction and Chapter 1 can be kept, though I would suggest editing out what is not directly relevant. Chapter 1 especially can be shortened.

I would omit Chapter 2 altogether. Since this is taken up in Parts II and III, there will be quite a lot of repetition.

I believe you indicated that the material in Chapter 3 (Boswell-Levine, Humes-CBS) is dated. However, I think it should be included, especially becuase it is referred to later in the other parts. What you can do is to condense this chapter so that it resembles the chapters on NO testimony in Part III. Those are good chapters because they adhere to one subject, are terse and to the point. Do something on that order here. Be careful with Humes. You have some excellent points against him here, but on one or two areas you are weak, as indicated in my lengthy notes.

Take out Chapter 4 altogether. In my notes I indicate what information is worth salvaging, and where to put it. If you want to include the new Specter gems in this Chapter, then I think you could fit them into the previous chapter. That way, the focus of chapter 3 would be something to the effect of how those who fail to respond to serious inquiry use the media to put forth their lies and bumbling excuses.

I think Chapter 5 should be omitted as well. Somewhere you will have to give a good account of the single bullet theory and its shortcomings before going into some of the new info. I was even thinking of reprinting from WW. Howeber, the point of this chapter seems to be that none of tje offical investigators save Specter consdiered anything other than three seperate hits. I think that is largely irrelevant, if only because the fact that three hits was the only thing considered does not make it right. At any rate, I really think things like this are outdated, and serve no purpose now.

As for Chapter 6, I think the Washington Post stuff at the back can be cut out. The things with the head wound can stay, but must be presented in a different way, which I'll get to in a second. What you quote from Specter can be put with other Specter quotes you discuss, as I suggested, in Chapter 3.

What to do with the head wound is this: First make it clear that your discussion will not resolve the issue of how the head was wounded, from what locations, how many bullets, etc. Its intention is to expose the nature of the investigation into the head wounds, from the local authorities immediately after the shooting up to the WC itself. Go into what you here leave out--finding the tissue in the grass--and the pictures of it--the Gun book and the Dulles request of Hoover. To the McClelland material add Dr. Jenkins and briefly add a qualified insertion about Stewart. Emphasize Specter's failure to pursue what McClelland and Jenkins told him, esp. what he did with Jenkins. As for the Haper thing, emphasize not the location of discovery, but the fact that searching by the authorities failed to turn this piece up. Also emphasize the WC's lack of interest in the whole affair, and its failure to determine the significance, if any, of Harper's discovery.

I think there are some things you will want to take out of Chapter 7, though that is up to you. Keep in what you have about Specter's memo on interview with FBI Agents.

As for Chapter 8, take the Harper material at the beginning and put it with your other discussion of head wounds, at Chapter 6, as suggested above. As outlined in my notes, I'd do something with the Reynold's letter re JBC femur fragment--either qualify it strongly, or omit it. The rest of the chaoter--on Specter and other staff memos--can stay, with the corrections outlined in my notes.

Chapter 9 can stay, though there are things you probably will want to take out. Looking over the chapter, I wonder if it wouldn't be better to make a new, seperate chapter on JBC's wounds and the single bullet theory. This would give you the oppertunity to give the needed background, and add some new things, esp. the parallel with the Vietnam case re blood on bullet.

IMPORTANT: See Specter's questioning of Dr. Clark at 6 H 25.

Chapter 10 should stay, but please note my note about your major error re the outline of the report, which you got mixed up. In my note, where I say "Slawson's" outine, I mean "Goldberg's."

The Postscript is one of the high points of the book and should stay. You already are familiar with my idea to add the Ex. Sess. material on exam of pix and X-rays in conjunction with the Specter memo.